

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /057 W
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O R 251208Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1711

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, WZ

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S TRAVEL PLANS -- KING SOBHUZA'S HEALTH

REF: KINSHASA 7980

1. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S REQUEST 1030 HOURS SATURDAY MORNING FOR STATUS REPORT ON PROPOSED MOBUTU VISIT (REFTEL), PERMSEC FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAID KING SOBHUZA'S DOCTOR IS BEING CONSULTED ON QUESTION OF KING'S SEEING MOBUTU. DOCTOR EXPECTED LATER ON SATURDAY TO CONTACT PERMSEC, WHO WILL INFORM AMEMBASSY FOR TRANSMISSION TO KINSHASA.

2. KING HAS BEEN MORE OR LESS INDISPOSED FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS. HE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ACCEPT CREDENTIALS OF CHINESE AND ISRAELI AMBASSADORS, WHO ARRIVED EARLY AUGUST AND WHO REPRESENT TWO-THIRDS OF RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC CORPS. HE MANAGED ATTEND INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS SEPTEMBER 6 BUT TOOK UNUSUALLY SUBDUED ROLE. AS IN PAST, INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM CALLED FOR KING TO DRESS AS SWAZI WARRIOR AND JOIN THOUSANDS OF OTHER WARRIORS IN STADIUM DANCE CEREMONY, BUT KING ABSTAINED AND REMAINED IN FORMAL DRESS FOR ENTIRE DAY. GOS MINISTER WHO
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SAW KING SEVERAL DAYS AGO TOLD CHARGE THAT RUMORS OF KING'S

ILLNESS (STROKE, PENUMONIA, ETC.) ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED BUT THAT KING INDEED "UNDER THE WEATHER" AND FEELING SORRY FOR HIMSELF.

3. IF SOBHUZA/DOCTOR DECIDE AGAINST RECEIVING MOBUTU, EMBASSY BELIEVES WILL NOT RPT NOT BE "DIPLOMATIC" ILLNESS.
WACHOB

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